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## From the Chair...

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At the end of September, I was thrilled to attend our first ACM-sponsored International Conference on the Theory of Information Retrieval (ICTIR) which was held in the beautiful Massachusetts town of Northampton, and hosted by General Co-Chairs James Allan and Bruce Croft. The strength of the technical program was extremely high, and the single-track format created a comfortable atmosphere for interaction and discussion. Arjen de Vries and Chengxiang Zhai served as Program Chairs for full papers; Norbert Fuhr and Yi Zhang served as Program Chairs for short papers. Our thanks to them for putting together such an interesting program. I also congratulate Ben Carterette, who won the Best Paper award for his paper “Bayesian Inference for Information Retrieval Evaluation”.

ICTIR 2016 will be held at the University of Delaware next September with Ben and Hui Fang as General Co-Chairs. I encourage you to submit and attend next year, as the conference continues to grow into one of the leading venues for publishing research in our field. If you have comments or questions about the future of ICTIR, or if you would like to host the conference, please contact the conferences Steering Committee Chair, Oren Kurland. At the conferences business meeting we discussed issues such as open reviewing and the timeline for introducing workshops to the conference. If you have opinions on these topics, or on anything else related to ICTIR, Oren would be happy to hear from you.

At SIGIR 2015, in Santiago, Chile, our annual Test of Time Award was presented to Susan Dumais, Edward Cutrell, JJ Cadiz, Gavin Jancke, Raman Sarin, and Daniel C. Robbins for their SIGIR 2003 paper *Stuff I’ve seen: A system for personal information retrieval and re-use*. Congratulations to them! In this issue, you will find a reprint of their paper, and I encourage you to have a look back at this groundbreaking work.

Established in 2014, our Test of Time Award recognizes research that has had long-lasting influence on our field. Each year, the award committee selects a paper published at one our conferences ten to twelve years in past. As an unfortunate result, no paper published before 2002 will ever be eligible for the award. To address this problem, we have established a separate panel to recognize exceptional papers published at SIGIR before that date. Salton Award winner Keith van Rijsbergen has agreed to lead this panel. Expect to hear more about this effort at SIGIR 2016 in Pisa next July.

Coming up over the next few months, we have WDSM in San Francisco in February and CHIIR in Chapel Hill, North Carolina in March. I plan to attend both, and if you have comments, concerns, compliments, or complaints please feel free to discuss them with me, either in person, or through the email address below.

I look forward to seeing you in 2016!

Charles Clarke  
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